



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



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RECENT PROGRESS IN THE JUAN F. EXIT PLAN

Meeting High Standards

- Exit Plan creates strict accountability and improved performance: The plan to end Federal Court jurisdiction creates 22 performance measures for the Department's work with children and families. The report for the First Quarter 2006 shows DCF met 15 of 20 outcomes measured in the quarter. The outcomes met by the Department during the quarter include:
 - (1) Timely commencement and (2) completion of investigations
 - (3) Search for relatives
 - (4) Repeat maltreatment and (5) maltreatment of children in out-of-home care
 - (6) Timely reunification and (7) timely adoption
 - (8) Re-entry into care
 - (9) Stability of foster care placements
 - (10) Foster parent training
 - (11) Regular worker-client visitation in in-home cases and (12) out of home cases
 - (13) Meeting caseload standards
 - (14) Successfully meeting discharge measures
 - (15) Timely multi-disciplinary exams

Reasonable Caseloads

- Case Workers Meet Standard: Social workers have actual caseloads of between 15 to 20 cases, placing Connecticut in line with national Child Welfare League standards. Prior to the Consent Decree, according to anecdotal information, workers typically had caseloads of 40 to 60 cases

Timely Permanence: Adoption, Guardianship, Reunification

- Reducing the time children wait to be adopted: The percentage of children adopted in a timely manner increased significantly. Compared to the first quarter of 2004, the percentage of children adopted within 24 months nearly quadrupled in the first quarter of 2006. In four of the last five quarters, more than 30 percent of adoptions met the two-year timeline and in three of those quarters the Department exceeded the Exit Plan goal of 32 percent. Unofficial data for the second quarter of 2006 indicates the Department again met the goal.
- More permanent homes: During State Fiscal Years 1997 to 2005, an average of 615 permanent homes (both adoptions and subsidized guardianships) were found annually for children in foster care -- more than four times the number in 1996. In FY2006, 498 adoptions were finalized and 308 subsidized guardianships granted for a total of 806 new permanent homes..
- Timely reunification: Reunifying children with parents also ensures permanency. In the first quarter of 2006, the Department exceeded the Exit Plan goal of completing 60 percent of reunifications within 12 months for the third consecutive quarter.

Appropriate Levels of Care for Children, Closer to Home

- Since April 2004, the Department reduced the number of children in residential care by more than 26 percent -- bringing the number to 650 or 239 fewer children over a 29-month period.
- Since September 2004, the Department has reduced the number of children in an out-of-state residential program by 39.5 percent. As of July 1, 2006, there were 194 fewer children in an out-of-state program compared to only 22 months ago.